

I am shocked and outraged at Sinclair Broadcasting's decision to force their stations to air an anti-Kerry documentary days before the election. This action is a clear abuse of the free use of the public airwaves which has been granted to all over-the-air broadcasters. Broadcasters make money off of this free use we give them--and in turn they have a responsibility to serve the public interest. To air such a blatantly partisan program without giving equal time to an opposing point of view is truly shameful. Sinclair's actions do not serve the public interest, but rather they betray the public trust.

This is another example of what happens when large companies control the airwaves: we get more of what's good for the bottom line and less of what we need for our democracy. Instead of something produced at "News Central" far away, it's more important that we see real people from our own communities and more substantive news about issues that matter.

Sinclair's actions show why we need to strengthen media ownership rules, not weaken them. They show why the license renewal process needs to involve more than a returned postcard. Thank you.